



Nonpoint Source pollution is best defined as a contrast to point sources of pollution. While point sources of pollution are transported to surface and ground water by a discernable and defined conveyance, such as a pipe or a ditch, nonpoint sources are transported to surface and ground water through overland flow or general runoff from the areas adjacent to the water resource. Examples of nonpoint source pollution include runoff from residential neighborhoods, construction sites, abandoned mining operations, agricultural operations, and forestry activities. Additional sources of nonpoint source pollution include affects to water resources caused by stream modifications, failing septic tank systems, and the non-permitted disposal of solid waste.

Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act establishes the Nonpoint Source Program, and requires that states develop a Management Program to establish direction for the program. In essence, this Management Program is a strategic plan. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Nonpoint Source Program (TDA-NPS Program) has developed this revision to the Management Program, which was originally approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on September 1, 1989. This revision sets specific long term goals for the TDA-NPS Program for the next fifteen years, and sets specific short term action items to be accomplished within the next five to ten years, for each category of nonpoint source pollution.

### **TDA-NPS Program Vision Statement**

*TDA-NPS Program will be the most effective provider of 319 funding in the nation as we seek to restore and protect Tennessee's water resources from nonpoint sources of pollution.*

### **TDA-NPS Program Mission Statement**

*The mission of the TDA-NPS Program is to:  
Measurably reduce nonpoint source pollution in Tennessee,  
Measurably improve Tennessee's water quality,  
Continuously strengthen and expand partnerships, and  
Increase the water resources stewardship of Tennessee's citizens.*

### **TDA-NPS Program Long Term Goals**

#### **Long Term Goal 1.**

Hold regularly scheduled meetings with stakeholders, to create new partnerships, strengthen existing partnerships and to foster greater trust, commitment and accountability.

#### **Long Term Goal 2.**

Fully implement all developed TMDLs for nonpoint sources in compliance with existing regulations, policies, or agreements by 2015.



**Long Term Goal 3.**

Restore all waters impaired by nonpoint sources that are listed on the 1998 303(d) List to the condition of fully supporting their designated uses by 2015, in cooperation with local, state and federal partners.

**Long Term Goal 4.**

Beginning in 2006, through regulatory and non-regulatory means, prevent previously unlisted waters from being included on the 303(d) List because of nonpoint source impairments.

**Long Term Goal 5.**

Improve the knowledge of stakeholders and citizens concerning the origins, magnitude, and prevention of nonpoint source pollution.

**Long Term Goal 6.**

Through the process of continuous improvement, routinely assess all programmatic functions of the TDA-NPS Program in order to maximize efficiency, decrease the bureaucratic burden and increase the numbers of participants in the program.

**Long Term Goal 7.**

Use the maximum allowable percentage of funding annually to assist partners with water quality monitoring and assessment, for the duration of the 319 program.

The success of this Management Program is heavily dependent upon partnerships with other public agencies, non-profit associations, local governments, and private citizens. Within each source chapter of the Management Program (Section 1), a commitment is made to conduct regular meetings of working groups. This process will ensure that lines of communication are created and maintained between the TDA-NPS Program and its partners, and it will result in the creation of more 319 projects. This will also help meet our Long Term program goals.

The most ambitious long term goal involves the restoration of all waters impaired by nonpoint sources listed on the 1998 303(d) List by 2015. Obviously, this goal will never be reached without the close coordination and commitment of all partners to this goal. The TDA-NPS Program will make reaching consensus on this issue with all partners its highest priority. This goal will also not be reached without an increase in the educational materials provided to elected officials, public and private agencies, landowners, developers, local citizens, etc.

Additional areas where the TDA-NPS Program will emphasize improvements are:

- Expand the use of the Internet to educate, transfer technology, and provide faster and higher quality service to partners and contractors.
- Sponsor the annual Tennessee Nonpoint Source Partnership Conference, to provide opportunities for partners from across the state to network together and for new or innovative nonpoint source solutions to be discussed.
- Encourage the creation of locally led watershed teams across Tennessee.



- Shorten the time between the submittal of a project proposal and the execution of a contract for the project.
- Establish watershed restoration action strategies for all priority watersheds identified through the Unified Watershed Assessment process.